VOLUME XXIV NUMBER 9
SEPTEMBER 1962

MARIN TREES ON TRIAL

Marin Water District officials have been concerned for some time with the fire hazard of mixed underbrush and snags along the ridge above Kent and Alpine Lakes. The snags are tall dead trees remaining after the 1945 conflagration, and are explosively dangerous in any new fire. Removing or destroying these snags is considered a necessary step to fire control on Water District lands.

It is an expensive operation, and the proposal was made that a certain amount of lumbering would be feasible along the ridge to compensate for the cost of removing the snags. The directors of the Water District arranged for an independent survey by a well-known firm of forestry consultants, and when the report was received they decided to hold a hearing to discover the public viewpoint.

The hearing, held on July 25 at Corte Madera, was—to this observer—an example of democratic machinery in action at its best. The Forestry Consultant, Mr. Jensen, presented a clear and factual proposal, the public (120 crowded into the small board room) asked intelligent questions and presented excellent statements, leaving no doubt that they wished to keep the trees even if the cost increased the taxes. The Directors were attentive and sincere. Nobody was emotional, dogmatic or verbose.

The plan was to run a logging road from near Samuel P. Taylor State Park south along the slope above the reservoirs, keep it well screened by trees, and remove snags and half-dead trees along the ridge. At the end, the "plum" dangled before the contractor would be a 30% cut of the virgin timber above Alpine Lake, which the Forester assured us would result in a healthy forest.

From the public the Board heard about Marin County history: That Muir Woods

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THOSE TOTE GOTES!

Oh Dear Lord, say it isn't so. Please, maybe it is just a nasty buzzing in my ears. It just can't be what I think it is, coming to spoil the grandeur of Round Top Lake; to unnerve us after a soul soothing hike from Woods Lake up through lush meadows, snow and wild flowers. OH NO! Not only is it that horror which is so loathsome, but it is TWO of them, careening down the path to the lake. Splash through the stream, circle round and round in each wide place in the path. Putt, pop and bang stinkingly onward to other lakes and pathways, spoiling more hikers' peaceful retreats.

Yes, it was two drated Tote Gotes, Pak Jaks, or whatever other title the miserable monsters bear. We thought of a few choice names to give them. Blood pressures went up, but all we could do was Boo and Jeer at the grinning apes that were driving the things. This was the one jarring note to an otherwise magnificent Natural Science Trip to Carson Pass, which you will find written up elsewhere in the YODELER.—Patricia Bauer

CARSON PASS

One of the most delightful outings of the year was the N.S.S. overnight trip to Woods Lake near Carson Pass, July 28-29. Some of us left Friday evening and others Saturday, but we all found beautiful camp sites at this forest service camp.

Saturday's hike was to Winnemucca Lake, about 2 1/2 miles and 1,000 feet up. Led by Ann Ray, we followed the trail, that took us along a beautiful stream and through meadows filled with flowers. There were many varieties and as we ascended, the flowers became more abundant and more colorful. Ann's knowledge of botany added much to the enjoyment of the trip.

Lunch was on the shores of beautiful Lake Winnemucca where we spent several sun drenched hours. Some climbed to nearby snow banks, some wandered along flower lined trails to vantage points for magnificent views of the Sierra. Some even tried the icy water of the Lake, but there were no long distance swims.

The traditional camp fire that night completed a perfect day. After various announcements and a short talk about the Canyon Ranch by Myra Browne, the group outdid itself in song, led by the versatile Faith Pilcher with her guitar.

Sunday's hike was to the west, past the Lost Cabin Mine. The trail led up through beautifully green meadows with carpets of flowers. Once we passed near a sandpiper's nest, and the poor bird was most distressed and did her best to lure us away from her babies.

We did not know the name of the Alpine Lake where we ate lunch. It was smaller than Winnemucca, but even more picturesque. Both of the lakes lie under the protecting peak of Round Top Mountain, and there were heavy snow banks on the south side of this latter lake, which is somewhat higher than Winnemucca. On the

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Sierra Club Yodeler

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For club members only, classified ads (private transactions), will be accepted at the rate of 35¢ per line of printed copy. The 'enterprise' rate is 70¢ per line. Persons submitting ads may compute their copy on the basis of approximately 7 words per line. Check must accompany copy. Commercial advertising is solicited. Please request rate card.

YODELER STAFF
Betty Franklin, Editor

Barbara Evans

Norma Caretta — Dell Dawson
Barbara Evans — Liz Lockwood

Circulation Manager — Cicely M. Christy
Production Manager — A. Louis Elliott
Advertising Manager — Jim Watters
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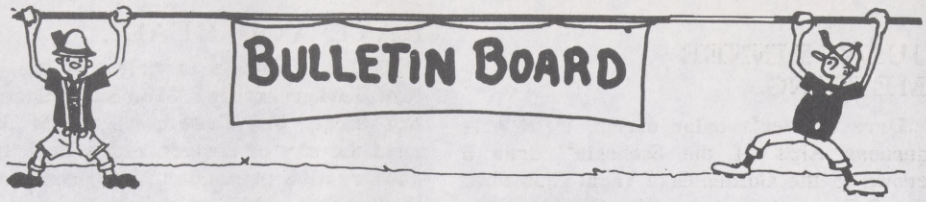


S. F. SEPTEMBER DINNER

"Exploring Hawaii—Sierra Club Style", an illustrated talk by Lewis F. Clark, Vice-president of the Sierra Club, will be the featured attraction of the San Francisco Dinner Meeting at the Golden Gate Yacht Club on Thursday, September 27th. See and hear how some 80 Sierra Clubbers scored a memorable "first" on a 9-day trip to the islands during Easter week 1962!

Social Hour: 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.
Dinner: 7:15 p.m., $2.00
Limit 150 people. Reservations required. Please call Donna Ingraham FI 6-8609, or Mary Collins GR 4-1921, before 9 p.m. September 25th.

EAST BAY DINNERS

It is time to make reservations for the first Fall East Bay dinner, to be held on Wednesday, Sept. 12. This is a dinner you'll be anxious to come to. It will give everyone an opportunity to meet old friends, talk over summer trips and catch up on news. Al Baxter will be there to show his pictures of the Sierra Club Ruwenzori Range Expedition in Africa.

Remember, the dinner will be in a new location—the College Women's Club, 2680 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Drive along College Avenue toward U.C., turn left on Bancroft. The Club is next to the Standard Station (corner College and Bancroft). Bancroft is ONE WAY heading west.

—Patricia M. Bauer

YODELER READERS

If you have received a reminder notice that your subscription is due, please send it in promptly. In September we pull out all overdue subscriptions. Don't get caught without your Yodeler! And be sure to send your new address to Yodeler AS WELL AS to the Club office.

SCHEDULE SUPPLEMENT

SEPT. 15-16—LEISURE KNAPSACKING - Postponed till the following weekend, Sept. 22-23, because of leader's unavoidable involvement in business trip. Call Vivienne Bray—LA 4-5211—for rides, riders and details.

SEPT. 22-23—CAR CAMP TRIP TO BIG SUR. Note change of telephone number for transportation coordinator: Donna Hennessey, 1355 Willard St., S.F. OV 1-6336.

FOUND

Wool-lined leather jacket on recent Carson Pass Trip. Contact Harold Sharp at OL 3-4585.

FIRST AID CLASS

An advanced First Aid class will begin Sept. 6.

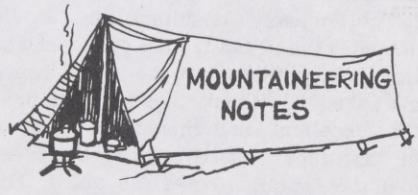
Time: 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Place: 1625 Van Ness Avenue
For information, please telephone PRospect 6-1500, Ext. 331 -
John E. Wallace, Director
First Aid, Small Craft
& Water Safety Services

LEISURE KNAPSACKING

The destination of the July 28-29 trip was changed from the Glen Alpine area to Middle Velma Lake where 17 of us, led by Helen Rudy and Susan Duckworth, found a truly delightful campsite. The weather, although a trifle warm, could scarcely have been improved.

We spent our leisure hours in various ways, according to individual preference, but most of us took special pleasure in swimming in the lake. The trails in and out offered unusually lovely vistas, and the placid weekend was ruffled only by rumors of "lost" persons. To the honor of the Sierra Club be it said that the local Ranger refused to credit a report that 17 of us were lost in his territory! "Strayed" perhaps, but "lost" we were not!

—Margaret Fisher



GLACIER TRAINING 1962

Glacier training for beginners was conducted by the Mountaineering Section August 18 and 19 on Mt. Dana Glacier. Crevasse rescue was emphasized. While ice screws have many applications, this time it was found that they could not be placed in the soft ice of Dana Glacier. Conventional ice pitons were used.

If you qualify, you have an opportunity to put into practice what you have learned on our summer training trips—climbing high angle ice on the Hotlum Glacier, Mt. Shasta. See Schedule for contacts.

—Bill Engs

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JULY DINNER MEETING

Dave Brower's color movie, "The Wilderness Alps of the Stehekin" drew a crowd to the Golden Gate Yacht Club when the S.F. section of the Bay Chapter convened their regular last-Thursday-of-the Month dinner meeting in July.

Dave introduced his film by outlining Stehekin's plight. Although vast, this chunk of Washington's northern Cascades, with its present status as U.S. Forest land, is threatened by lumber interests already at work. Whether this 1,000,000 acres, the size of Yosemite, will be protected by becoming a national park depends upon the fate of the Wilderness Bill now before congress.

The film eloquently pictures why the Stehekin area so richly deserves comparison to the European Alps. Here in our own U.S. is the splendor of glacier-laden mountains piercing the sky and towering over V-cut valleys carpeted lushly with blue-green firs, flowers and huckleberries.

Aerial views give first glimpses of Stehekin's rugged grandeur. With Dave the audience takes the trip from civilization at Lake Chelan to high wilderness via boat, jeep and horse to timberline where hikers are seen climbing in alpine gardens that touch glacial ice. The film surely won new friends for Stehekin and very likely caused major changes in vacation plans.

Carson Pass (Cont.)

sunny slopes to the north was a beautiful carpet of Alpine phlox, several acres in extent.

We were back in camp in the middle afternoon, and left Woods Lake in time to get home before dark. Several however wanted one more day in this lovely wilderness and stayed another night.

Thirty-five members and guests carried home the memories of two wonderful days of sunshine, trees and flowers and star-filled cloudless nights spent in the open.

—Harold Sharp

HAVE YOU READ . . .

Rachel Carson's articles in the June New Yorker entitled "The Silent Spring"? Not since The Dust Bowl clouds darkened the sky of eastern cities have basic conservation principles been presented to the general public so bluntly and with such consequent publicity. First in the New Yorker and now chosen by the Book of the Month Club, the articles will reach a public which is not in the habit of reading conservation magazines but, in this atomic age, is quite aware that poison can indeed fall with the gentle rain from heaven.

With a scientist's restraint and thoroughness Rachel Carson explores the menace of the new, powerful, pesticides which we are now broadcasting over field and forest in the name of pest control. These newer chemicals, of which D.D.T. was the first and best known, are not only deadly, but almost indestructible. The spray on the grass turns up in the milk. Poison washing from trees to soil finds its way to the ground water far below and may reappear in distant streams to give us polluted water at its supposedly purest source.

There has to be pest control in an economy where man insists on growing crops by the square mile, but we should study the consequences before we let our agents loose. We have forgotten, says Rachel Carson, two vital things. One is the interdependence of living things. We spray the trees for elm disease; the coated leaf eventually falls to earth and is ingested by earthworms. Presently the robins die. They have been eating worms.

The second forgotten point is the explosive capacity of all living things. If we create a space in nature by killing one kind of pest, another has fantastic capacity to fill the space. In the northwest large areas of forest were sprayed for Spruce budworm, also killing almost, but not quite, everything else. In the absence of its usual insect predators, the spider mite flourished and killed the trees anyway. Worse still, we are rapidly breeding resistant pests by our attempts at extermination. There are always a few individuals (insect, fungus, or bacteria) which vary in the direction of immunity to the particular poison. Provide them with space, and they can and do breed resistant progeny by the million.

The outcry in the instecticide industry indicates the public effect of these articles, but Miss Carson is too good a scientist to be caught short on her facts. This is an immensely interesting book, though not recommended for bedside reading. We think the editors of the New Yorker deserve a conservation award for first publishing the material. C.M.C.

Marin Trees (Cont.)

was only just saved, by the dogged efforts of William Kent, from being logged to create a reservoir in that canyon; that logging operations have been the prime cause of fires, in fact, the 1945 conflagration started that way; that former loggers could not make a profit even at a time of higher timber prices; and that where logging had been done on Marin County property the scars seem permanent.

It was discovered that the cost of removing the snags would be about $30,000, which is but a few cents to water users. In any case, the recreation value of the unspoiled land is far above its value in timber. Erosion is bound to follow the lumberman's operations, however carefully he is supervised.

Fred Gunsky spoke for the Sierra Club, and his statement sums up the general feeling of the public at the hearing. "We believe the trees (on Water District land) are a part of the natural wealth of Marin County; that they belong where they are, to create a sponge to hold the water and release it gradually into our clean reservoirs, to grace the landscape, and make it beautiful to see and splendid to enjoy for wildlife and human recreation."

Finally the Chairman said, "Well, I think we have what we want," and closed the hearing. Two weeks later the Board stated that not a living tree will be cut, there will be no logging road, snags when felled will probably remain where they fall.

Congratulations, Marin Conservation groups, on a victory which will benefit all of us! C.M.C.

CLASSIFIED

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RIDGE-HOPPING IN CATHEDRAL RANGE

Jim Watters and John Thomas led 28 knapsackers on an up-and-down loop trip July 21 and 22 to enjoy some of Yosemite's most spectacular granite landscape. From open Tuolumne Meadows we began a 7-mile day with our sights set on the saddle between Unicorn and Cathedral Peaks, where, after picking our individual ways through lupine-filled forests, we would find Budd Lake, our lunch stop. This cross-country maneuver caused a few to take somewhat devious routes to the timberline lake.

After lunch we followed Jim up the steep slope across two snow fields to a saddle between Echo Peaks and Echo Ridge to get our first view of the flaring and jagged razor-backed Matthes Crest. We inched down among the boulders and soon strolled along Echo's south shoulder to descend into Matthes Creek Canyon. We were greeted along the way by friendly mosquitos, which as someone explained, must have read the schedule to be so well represented. They followed us merrily to our camp beside Matthes Lake, where the Crest towered majestically above us, and stayed for dinner.

A delicious meal was served by central commissary, while some, striving to outwit the airborne enemy, devised some rather bizarre chapeaux. Bandana face masks, sweat-shirt turbans and Lawrence-of-Arabia neck shields were popular models at campfire when Jim outlined Sunday's 9-mile itinerary.

The 6:30 rising call on a makeshift bongo drum found some of us already swimming. After a hearty breakfast, we cleared the southern ridge and began our second day of ridge hopping. We crossed the valley, skirted Nelson Lake and climbed beside a noisy stream that bounced down regular granite ledges. Above, at snow-fed Reymann Lake, some enthusiastic members preceded lunch with swimming.

The great secret of veteran ridge-hoppers was revealed to all who steamed up the next ridge: It consists of the steady placing of the rear foot ahead of the up-

NEXT COLUMN.

Ridge Hopping (Cont.)

hill foot. Once at the pass that flanked Rafferty Peak, we looked out over the Kuna Crest, Koip Crest and Fletcher Peak. Here we turned north following the curve of the slope below the Cockscomb, gently gaining altitude over the talus in order to reach the saddle (alias ridge) just below Johnson Peak. We stationed here while some, sans packs, climbed Johnson Peak.

Others snoozed among the boulders in the refreshing breezes, only casually noting the great display of clouds building up along the eastern ranges.

By 2:30 in the afternoon we began the final descent, our last ridge hop behind us. Over the talus and into the forests beside Elizabeth Lake we came to finish our trip on a short jaunt of unaccustomed trail. The sky darkened as clouds swept swiftly over the meadows. Vulcan flung a few warnings to hasten the rear guard, who reached the parking lot refreshed by the beginning rain. We looked back at our mountains wrapped in black storm clouds and carried away memories of an unsurpassed trip.

—Barbara Evans

CHAPTER DAY

Circle October 7 on your calendar as a VERY important date. It is CHAPTER DAY—a day that every Sierra Club member shouldn't miss.

This will be an open house affair held at West Point Inn, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Club members, old and new, their families and friends may come. Bring your own lunches. Coffee, tea and/or lemonade will be available for 15¢. A small donation for grounds fee will be accepted.

The committees and sections of the Chapter will have exhibits, and there will be explanatory talks about the various activities of the Club. This will provide an excellent opportunity to learn how the Chapter and its committees operate. It is hoped that many of you will be inspired to "volunteer" to help on some of these activities, so that the ever-increasing needs of a rapidly expanding Club may be met.

The Hiking Section has arranged a hike which will terminate at West Point Inn in time to join in the activities at the Inn. Who knows, maybe the weather will cooperate too.

Transportation will be available to Mountain Theater from San Francisco and the East Bay. Contact the transportation coordinator for further information. See the new SCHEDULE of September-December for Chapter Day Committee members, who will gladly answer any questions you may have. The Committee is looking forward to a large turnout. Don't disappoint them.

—Patricia M. Bauer

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